

Closing the Achievement Gap in Rural Districts:  
Practices of Central Region Practitioners Who Have Closed the Gap

**Agenda**

September 27, 2016

*Objectives*

Participants will gain understanding of the following:

- Research results related to closing the achievement gap in rural districts.
- Lessons from the field related to closing the achievement gap in rural districts in Missouri and South Dakota.

1:00 p.m.	<b>Shelley Billig (REL Central)</b> Welcome and overview of the Rural Education Research Alliance
	<b>Stephany Brown (REL Central)</b> Overview of the webinar goals, anticipated outcomes, and speaker introductions
1:10 p.m.	<b>Shelley Billig</b> The process that alliance members used to determine the definitions and measures for gap-closure will be discussed along with highlights from the REL Central Applied Research Methods paper, <i>Decision Points and Considerations for Identifying Rural Districts That Have Closed Student Achievement Gaps</i> (Culbertson & Billig, 2016).
1:25 p.m.	<b>Stephany Brown</b> Question-and-answer session
1:29 p.m.	<b>Stephany Brown</b> Introduction of John McColloch
1:30 p.m.	<b>John McColloch</b> Overview of the Salem District in Salem, Missouri, and factors in the areas of teaching and learning, district leadership, and organizational structure and processes that may have contributed to gap closure.
1:45 p.m.	<b>Stephany Brown</b> Question-and-answer session
1:49 p.m.	<b>Stephany Brown</b> Introduction of Jennifer Lowery
1:50 p.m.	<b>Jennifer Lowery</b> Overview of the Tea Area School District in Tea, South Dakota, and factors in the areas of teaching and learning, district leadership, and organizational structure and processes that may have contributed to gap closure.
2:05 p.m.	<b>Stephany Brown</b> Question-and-answer session
2:10 p.m.	<b>Shelley Billig</b> Closing remarks